

To the Right Honorable  
Sir ROBERT TITCHBORN Knight,  
Lord Major of the City of LONDON,  
And the Right Worshipful

The Aldermen his Brethren, and the Commonalty of the said City,  
assembled in Common-Council:

*The Humble Petition of John Osmond a Free-man and Car-man of London, and Mary his Wife;*

*Humbly beweath,*

I. That your Petitioners wifes former husband (*John Wilmot*) being a Freeman of *London*, and of the Company of Woodmongers, did for divers years together hire two Car-rooms of one *Thomas Wilmot* (his uncle) at the rate of fifteen pounds twelve shillings yearly Rent, during which time the said *John Wilmot* paid unto his said uncle (for Rent) above fourscore pounds, and afterwards the said *John Wilmot* bought the said two Car-rooms of his said uncle *Thomas Wilmot* (who was an ancient Car-man, and owner of four Car-rooms before the Decree in *Star-chamber*) and paid him more an hundred and twenty pounds purchase-money for them, and in the life time of the said *Thomas Wilmot*, at Woodmongers Hall, by him the said *Thomas Wilmot*, all his Right and Title to the said two Car-rooms, was turned over to the said *John Wilmot*, by, and with the consent and approbation of the Company of Woodmongers, and then the said Company (being about twenty years since) did enter the said *John Wilmot* owner of the said two Car-rooms, and sealed them to him, and received of him twenty shillings for each Car-room, Admittance-money; the said two Car-rooms the said *John Wilmot* enjoyed peaceably all his life time, and died in possession and owner of them.

II. That the said *Thomas Wilmot* died owner of his other two Car-rooms, and at his death left them to the use of his wife; which said two Car-rooms she doth still enjoy the benefit thereof to this day, she being yet alive.

III. That presently after the death of the said *John Wilmot*, your Petitioners predecessor (which was about thirteen years since) Although your Petitioners wifes said former husband at the time of his death left her in great necessity, and four small children, and forty pounds in debt, not having any means for the satisfaction of the said Debt, and for the subsistence of her self and said children, but her lawful imployment of her said Car-rooms so dearly purchased: The said Company of Woodmongers, contrary to all right and liberty of a Freemans widow, by their arbitrary power, without any Law authorizing them so to do, did take away her said two Car-rooms, and would not suffer her to work her said Cars for the subsistence of her and her said children, unlesis she would pay them yearly ten pounds excessively for her liberty to work, which she was forced to submit unto, rather then she and her said children should perish for want of bread; under which oppression of the said Company, your Petitioner and said wife did suffer so long, that the said Company did wrongfully and oppressively take of your Petitioner near fifty seven pounds ten shillings, besides the Annual Hall-rent of near forty shillings, which was five years and three quarters.

IV. That by reason of the said oppression, as also that it pleased God to afflict your Petitioner with lamenes, for the space of one whole year, together with great loss of seven Horses, to the value of above one hundred pounds (by Providence) your Petitioner was brought into great necessity, and made unable to continue the payment of the said ten pounds a year to the said Company of Woodmongers, whereupon they refused to seal his said Car-rooms to him, though he was willing to pay the *Hof* of *seventeen shillings four pence for each Car-room*, and the Hall Duties: which caused your Petitioner (amongst others) for his right and liberty to work (it being that Calling he had served an Apprentiship, and was made free by the said Company and City, to work at) to seek Relief from the Parliament *Anno 1650*, whereupon the Honorable Committee of Parliament did Order, and therein enjoyned the said Company of Woodmongers to seal unto your Petitioner, and the rest of the oppressed complaining Carmen and Widows, their several respective Car-rooms (which they had wrongfully detained from them) which was done accordingly by the Company of Woodmongers, and they received of your Petitioner and the rest for each Car-room, twenty shillings Admittance-money; but after the said Parliament was broken up, they refused to seal to your Petitioner his said two Car-rooms (saying, *Now the Parliament was gone*) although your Petitioner was always ready, and did pay, and then offered to pay all arrears of Rent as was due from him to the Hospital, according to the Decree, and your Honors late Act of Common-council.

V. That the said Company of Woodmongers (being commanded to certifie the ancient Car-men, and the number of Car-rooms each Car-men held) did *Anno 1652*, certifie in the said List your Petitioners to be owner of, and to the said Car-rooms, nevertheless the said Company of Woodmongers further to oppress, and vexatiouly to prosecute your Petitioner (groundlesly) to the utter ruine of him and his family, did bring an Action against him in the *Chamberlain's* name, upon your Honors Act of Common-council, made *Anno 1654*, which was tryed the twentieth day of *January* last in your Honors Court, and the Jury finding upon a full Hearing and witnessess on both sides, that your Petitioner had not acted any thing in contempt of, or contrary to the said Act, did give their Verdict for your Petitioner.

VI. That the said Company of Woodmongers, who are reitles and unsatiable in their vexatious (if not malicious) prosecutions of your Petitioner, have notwithstanding (without any just cause) since the said Tryal arrested and imprisioned his servant, and declared against him upon the said Act of Common-council, and to demonstrate that their intended purpose is the ruining of your Petitioner and family, they have again arresteded him, and when their intended practices of venting their cruelty against your Petitioner will cease, is not discernable, unless a stop be made, and your Petitioner be relieved by the power and justice of this Honorable Court, who are the Conservators of the Rights, Liberties and Priviledges of every Freeman of *London*, and their Families, against all Tyranny and Oppression.

VII. That the said Company of Woodmongers (under a mere pretence of Government) have by their arbitrary Power, not onely oppressed your Petitioner, in causing him to spend near fourscore pounds in his just defence of his just right and liberty, to work for the Livelyhood of himself and Family, in that Calling for which he had served an Apprentiship; but also they themselves are the great offenders and breakers of your Honors said Act of Common-council; for by their said arbitrary practices they have in contempt of, and contrary to your said Act, sealed out *supernumeraries* to the number of sixty (for which they took Rent) of all sorts, and do seal out daily, allow, and disallow of Car-rooms in the absence, and without the consent and approbation of the Committee, or any three of them, which is expressly forbidden by your said Act of Common-council; by which said practices of the said Company, they have as much as in them lies, made null your said Act both in Letter and Equity, in point of your Honors undoubted intended Justice, for a right and wholelom Government for the good of the whole, which is according to the foundation of your Honors Authority, to make and mend Customs of Government, that is to say, consonant to good faith and reason, for the common profit of the Citizens of *London*.

*The Premises considered, your Petitioner prays, That this Honorable Court will take into their grave and pious consideration his sad, oppressed, ruined condition; And that by your Justice the said Company may be compelled to make him Satisfaction for the said wrongs they have done to your Petitioner, and to put a stop to their unjust and vexatious prosecutions, And to invest him into a peaceable possession of his just Right and Liberty (to work for the Maintenance of himself and family) who hath been, and shall always submit and give obedience to Government.*

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

*John Osmond.  
Mary Osmond.*